

21

CHARTER

AND

BY-LAWS

OF

THE LAW ASSOCIATION

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

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1880.





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CHARTER  
OF THE  
LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.

[As AMENDED A. D. 1880.]

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TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME :

WHEREAS The corporate powers heretofore possessed by THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA are derived from the Charter of The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia, dated the thirteenth day of March, A. D. 1802 ; the Amended Charter granted to The Law Association of Philadelphia, upon the union of The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia aforesaid with The Associated Members of the Bar of Philadelphia, on the second day of April, A. D. 1827, and various amendments thereto ;

AND WHEREAS It is the purpose of these presents to embody the said corporate powers in one instrument and to make certain improvements, amendments and alterations thereof under the provisions of the act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved the twenty-ninth day of April, A. D. 1874, and the supplements thereto ;

NOW THEREFORE KNOW ALL MEN That THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA aforesaid doth hereby adopt this instrument as the CHARTER of Incorporation thereof, and doth accept the same in lieu of the Charter and amendments thereto heretofore in force.

## I. NAME, POWERS AND PRIVILEGES.

I. The name of the corporation shall be THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA. Under the said title the said Association shall be a body corporate, and shall have, use and enjoy all the powers and privileges mentioned and specified in the said acts of Assembly pertaining to corporations of the first class: *Provided*, That no By-law or Resolution of the said Association shall extend to a dissolution thereof or give power to dissolve the same, except by consent of all the members thereof.

## II. OBJECTS.

I. The objects of the said corporation are as follows:—

(1.) The general supervision of the conduct of Members of the Bar, and of all persons connected officially with the administration of the law or in charge of the public records, and, in cases of any breach of duty on their part, the institution of such proceedings as may be lawful in respect thereto.

(2.) The improvement of the law and of its administration; the protection of the Bar and of judicial tribunals, their officers and members, from invasion of their rights; and the maintenance of their proper influence.

(3.) The keeping up of a law library.

## III. MEETINGS.

I. There shall be four stated meetings of the Association in each year, to wit:—On the first Monday of the months of December, March, June and October; but no failure to hold such meetings shall work any forfeiture of this Charter, or other detriment to the corporation. Special meetings may be called by the Chancellor whenever he may think proper, or when he shall be requested to do so by any five



members. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of such a number of members as the By-laws shall provide. No voting by proxy shall be allowed.

#### IV. OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. The officers of the Association shall be a Chancellor, a Vice-Chancellor, a Treasurer and a Secretary. There shall be two Standing Committees, to wit:—A Committee of Censors and a Library Committee. The officers of the Association and the Standing Committees shall be elected annually at the stated meeting held on the first Monday of December, by a majority of the qualified voters present, each member present being entitled to one vote. If for any reason no such election shall take place at that time, the existing officers and committees shall continue in office until a new election, which may take place at any meeting thereafter, called upon notice that such election is to be held. Each of the Standing Committees shall elect its own officers, keep regular minutes of its proceedings and establish rules for its own government: *Provided*, That the Officers and Standing Committees elected at the annual meeting prior to the adoption of this Charter, shall be continued until the annual election in the month of December following.

2. The Chancellor shall preside at the meetings of the Association. He shall preserve order at the meetings and appoint all committees whose appointments are not otherwise provided for by this Charter, by the By-laws or by special resolution. In the absence of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall exercise his powers and perform his duties.

3. The Treasurer shall, under the direction of the Library Committee, make purchases and contracts for the Association, collect and disburse its funds, and keep proper accounts, which shall be annually audited by a committee of the Association

to be appointed for the purpose. He shall, at the meeting held on the first Monday of December, make a report of his receipts and disbursements during the previous fiscal year, and of the financial condition of the Association generally, which report shall be recorded in a book to be kept for the purpose. He shall give security to the Association for the faithful performance of the duties of his office in such sum and form as the Library Committee may require. He shall be *ex officio* a member of the Library Committee, with power to call meetings thereof.

4. The Secretary shall give due notice of meetings of the Association, attend the same, keep the minutes thereof, and perform the ordinary duties of his office. He shall also keep transcribed in a separate book this Charter and such By-laws as may from time to time be adopted, together with a roll of the members of the Association, with the dates of their admission to the Bar and of their becoming members of the Association.

5. The Committee of Censors shall consist of nine members, of whom five shall be a quorum. They shall have charge of the objects of the Association indicated in sections 1 and 2 of Article II. of this Charter, and when any matter relating thereto shall be brought to their notice, they shall, on behalf of the Association, take such action as they may deem proper. They may suggest to the Association such alterations in the rules of practice adopted in the different courts as may be deemed wise and beneficial, in order that, if approved, they may be authorized to present the same to the proper Court for adoption.

6. The Library Committee shall consist of twelve members, in addition to the Treasurer, of whom five shall be a quorum. They shall have a general superintendence of the library, of the purchases of books therefor, and of the appointment



and discharge of a Librarian and assistants. They may fix the salaries of the officers and employees of the Association. They shall counsel with and direct the Treasurer, and manage the general business of the Association. They shall make an annual report, at the December stated meeting, of the condition of the library and of the general business of the Association, which report shall be recorded in a book to be kept for the purpose.

#### V. MEMBERSHIP.

1. This Association shall consist of the present members thereof, and of such Members of the Philadelphia Bar as shall be admitted to membership as herein provided.

2. Applications for membership shall in all cases be referred to the Committee of Censors, who shall have power, by unanimous vote of the members present at any meeting thereof, to approve such applications. Upon the notification to the Treasurer of such approval, the applicant shall pay to the Treasurer such sum of money and in such manner as the By-laws shall require, and shall, upon full payment thereof, become a member of the Association, and shall receive a Certificate of Membership, signed by the Treasurer, with the seal of the Association attested by the Secretary attached, which certificate shall not be transferable.

3. Any member of the Association may be suspended or expelled for such cause as the Committee of Censors in a report recommending such action may adjudge sufficient: *Provided*, That notice shall be given by the Secretary to such member of the action thus recommended, and of the charge made against him, and that he will have an opportunity of being heard in person or by counsel: *And provided further*, That such recommendation shall be approved by two-thirds of the members present at a meeting specially called to consider the same.

The disbarment of any member shall *ipso facto* work his expulsion from the Association.

In case of the expulsion of a member all his rights and interest in the property of the Association shall thereupon determine.

The non-payment by any member of annual dues or assessments for two consecutive years, shall work a determination of his membership.

4. The annual payments by the members shall be regulated by the By-laws.

5. No membership other than as hereinbefore provided shall be allowed, saving the rights of the present life members.

## VI. LAW LIBRARY.

1. The terms and conditions upon which the rooms and books of the Association may be used by the members or others, shall be regulated by the Library Committee, except in matters prescribed by the By-laws.

## VII. BY-LAWS.

1. A code of By-laws shall be adopted by the Association, upon the approval and acceptance of this Charter, after which no By-law shall be enacted, amended or altered, except at a stated meeting of the Association, after having been publicly read at a previous meeting, and posted in the library room for the period of thirty days before final action.

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Adopted by the Association March 1st, 1880. Allowed and approved by the Court of Common Pleas, No. 2, of Philadelphia county, June 5th, 1880. Recorded in the office for Recording Deeds, &c., for Philadelphia county, in Charter-book No. 5, page 206, &c.



# BY-LAWS

OF THE

## LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.

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### I. MEETINGS.

1. A quorum for the transaction of any business shall consist of ten members.

2. The order of business at the meetings of the Association shall be as follows, but may be suspended or changed by a unanimous vote of the members present:—

- (1.) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (2.) Report of the Treasurer and action thereon.
- (3.) Report of the Library Committee and action thereon.
- (4.) Report of the Committee of Censors and action thereon.
- (5.) Reports of special committees and action thereon.
- (6.) Communications from officers or others.
- (7.) Unfinished business.
- (8.) New business.
- (9.) Election of officers.

3. At special meetings, the business for which the meeting has been called shall be taken up immediately after the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. After disposition or postponement thereof, any other business will be in order

### II. MEMBERSHIP.

1. The amount to be paid by each member upon admission shall be thirty dollars.

2. The annual dues of each member shall be twelve dollars, payable in advance on the first Monday of March in each year, and the first annual payment of a member may be apportioned.

3. Members of the Association absent from the city for a period of more than one year, may during their absence be relieved from payment of the annual dues during such absence, upon application to the Library Committee.

4. Members of the Bar, within twelve months of their admission to practice in the Courts of this county, may, with the approval of the Committee of Censors, pay to the Treasurer annually in advance, on the first Monday of March, during five years, the following sums:—

First year, six dollars, of which there

shall be applied to Capital.....\$4 and to Annual dues \$2

Second year, seven dollars, of which

there shall be applied to Capital, 5      “      “      2

Third year, eight dollars, of which

there shall be applied to Capital, 6      “      “      2

Fourth year, ten dollars, of which

there shall be applied to Capital, 7      “      “      3

Fifth year, twelve dollars, of which

there shall be applied to Capital, 8      “      “      4

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Total Capital to be paid in five years, \$30

after which final payment, they shall be admitted to membership, and shall thereafter pay the same annual dues as other members: *Provided*, That upon the failure of any person to complete the payments required by this By-law, all payments made on account shall be the exclusive property of the Law Association.

All Members of the Bar who have applied to become members of the Association under the instalment plan shall



make their first payment within two months after their notification of approval by the Committee of Censors. Should any subsequent payments not be made within six months after the first Monday of March on which they become due, they will not be allowed the use of the library until such payments are made, and should two payments of instalments become due, the privilege will be cancelled, and all payments theretofore made shall become the exclusive property of the Association.

### III. LIBRARY.

1. The use of the library shall be confined to—

(1.) The Judges of the Courts of Pennsylvania and of the United States.

(2.) Members of the Association whose dues are not more than twelve months in arrears.

(3.) Members of the Bar who have complied with the rules regulating the instalment plan of becoming members of the Association.

(4.) Members of the Bar, not in any wise indebted to the Association, who have paid the annual sums required under the By-laws allowing them the privilege of using the library.

(5.) Such other persons, including Students at Law, as shall be allowed the privilege by the Library Committee, upon such terms as they deem proper.

2. Members of the Bar not members of the Association will be allowed the privilege of using the library upon payment in advance therefor of the sum of twenty dollars, such privilege to continue for one year from the date of such payment, which payment, for convenience, may be made in sums of ten dollars each—the second payment to be made within six months after the beginning of the subscription.

3. Members of the Bar paying, after the first Monday of March in any year, the sums required for the privilege of

using the library, and subsequently desiring to become members of the Association before the expiration of their subscriptions, may be credited with a proportionate amount of such payments upon the amounts to be paid for admission to membership.

4. No book shall be allowed to be taken from the library room except—

(1.) For use by the Judges of the various Courts sitting in Philadelphia County.

(2.) For use in Court by Members of the Association, or by Members of the Bar intending to become such under the instalment plan, annual subscribers, and Students in arguments of cases before the Law Academy.

(3.) Pursuant to regulation of the Library Committee.

#### IV. ENDOWMENT FUND.

All donations in money to the Association, except for specific purposes, shall be invested by the Treasurer under the direction of the Library Committee, the interest to be applied to the purchase of books. Such investments, which shall be called "The Endowment Fund," shall not be converted into money except for re-investment.